

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/747,955

Examiner

Nikolas J. Uhler

Applicant(s)

IIJIMA, TADAYOSHI

Art Unit

1773

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/26/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 16-18, 21, 22, 24-26, 28-30, 33 and 34.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 05/27/2004.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Green on 05/27/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

- **Claim 1, line 2:** "functional fine particles on the support" has been deleted and -- functional fine particles in contact with the support -- has been inserted therefor.
- **Claim 16, line 2:** "functional fine particles compressed onto the support" has been deleted and -- functional fine particles compressed to be in contact with the support -- has been inserted therefor.
- **Claim 17, line 2:** "functional fine particles formed by application onto the support" has been deleted and -- functional fine particles formed by application to be in contact with the support -- has been inserted therefor.
- **Claim 23:** has been cancelled.
- **Claim 24, line 2:** "conductive fine particles formed by application onto the support" has been deleted and -- conductive fine particles formed by application to be in contact with the support -- has been inserted therefor.
- **Claim 29, line 2:** "conductive fine particles on the support" has been deleted and -- conductive fine particles in contact with the support -- has been inserted therefor.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art to that of the instant invention is US5411792 to Yukinobu et al. Yukinobu teaches a transparent conductive film that is formed by compressing conductive particles onto a polyimide layer, and then laminating the resulting layer to a support layer of polyethylene terephthalate. Yukinobu does not teach a functional film having functional fine particles that are formed in contact with a support, wherein the support is composed of PET film, PE film, PP film, PC film, acrylic film, or norbornene film, as required by the instant claims. The process taught by Yukinobu requires a calcination step at a temperature of at least 400⁰C. This temperature is well above the melting temperatures of PET, PE, PP, PC film, acrylic film, or norbornene film. There is no teaching in the prior art that would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Yukinobu so as to arrive at the instantly claimed invention.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nikolas J. Uhlir whose telephone number is 571-272-1517. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul J. Thibodeau can be reached on 571-272-1516. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Paul Thibodeau
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700